(c) whether it is a fact that the Army had conveyed their views regarding permanent commission to women to Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Women officers are granted permanent commission in the Medical, Nursing and Dental Services of the Defence Forces. They are not eligible for grant of permanent commission in other Arms and Services in the Indian Army. However, this matter is being examined by the Chiefs of Staff Committee.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Flaws in T90 tanks

195. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the army's fleet of Russian built T90 tanks, inducted to serve as India's main battle tank over three years ago have run into serious trouble;

(b) if so, whether the problem included critical flaws in its fire control system and continuing technical flaws are adversely impinging on the Indian army's operational preparedness;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken up this issue with Russian authorities; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to improve the functioning of T90 tanks?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (d) There are no critical flaws in the fire control system of these tanks. However, as and when maintenance issues arise, they are addressed with the manufacturers.

Discrimination against women defence officers

196. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that active women defence officers in the Army do not get pension benefits and permanent commission;